

Appendix table 7-19.

Public assessment of funding of scientific research by the Federal Government: 1985–2001
 (Percentages)

Characteristic	1985	1988	1990	1992	1995	1997	1999	2001
All adults								
Strongly agree	9	16	17	14	19	22	21	19
Agree	70	65	62	63	61	57	61	62
Do not know	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	3
Disagree	16	14	15	18	17	15	13	15
Strongly disagree	0	1	2	2	2	3	2	1
Male								
Strongly agree	11	20	23	17	19	24	24	23
Agree	71	63	60	62	60	54	60	63
Do not know	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
Disagree	15	13	13	17	18	16	12	11
Strongly disagree	1	2	2	2	1	3	2	2
Female								
Strongly agree	8	11	13	11	15	20	18	16
Agree	68	68	65	64	62	59	62	61
Do not know	8	6	5	4	5	4	4	5
Disagree	16	14	16	19	16	15	14	18
Strongly disagree	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	1
Less than high school graduate								
Strongly agree	5	6	10	10	8	20	17	13
Agree	65	66	59	61	59	50	55	66
Do not know	9	7	8	5	7	5	7	5
Disagree	21	18	20	21	24	22	18	16
Strongly disagree	0	3	3	3	2	3	3	0
High school graduate								
Strongly agree	8	17	18	12	16	19	18	18
Agree	72	66	65	64	63	60	66	60
Do not know	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	3
Disagree	15	13	14	19	17	15	12	17
Strongly disagree	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	1
Baccalaureate								
Strongly agree	19	26	27	22	24	31	34	23
Agree	68	62	60	64	62	56	53	68
Do not know	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1
Disagree	10	8	10	12	11	10	10	8
Strongly disagree	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1
Graduate degree								
Strongly agree	20	29	31	26	43	40	40	32
Agree	70	61	58	53	46	51	51	56
Do not know	2	2	4	5	2	2	1	3
Disagree	8	7	6	14	8	5	8	8
Strongly disagree	0	1	1	2	1	2	0	1
Attentive public to science and technology^a								
Strongly agree	17	27	35	28	35	46	35	35
Agree	76	62	50	61	48	42	52	49
Do not know	0	2	4	1	1	1	0	3
Disagree	6	8	10	9	14	7	9	12
Strongly disagree	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	3

^aTo be classified as attentive to a given policy area, an individual must indicate that he or she is “very interested” in that issue area, report that he or she is “very well informed” about it, and be a regular reader of a daily newspaper or relevant national magazine. Citizens who report that they are “very interested” in an issue area but do not think that they are “very well informed” about it are classified as the “interested public.” All other individuals are classified as members of the “residual public” for that issue area. The attentive public for science and technology combines the attentive public for new scientific discoveries and the attentive public for new inventions and technologies. Any individual who is not attentive to either of those issues but who is a member of the interested public for at least one of those issues is classified as a member of the interested public for science and technology. All other individuals are classified as members of the residual public for science and technology.

NOTES: Responses are to the following question: Even if it brings no immediate benefits, scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the Federal Government—do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree?

SOURCE: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resources Statistics (NSF/SRS), NSF Survey of Public Attitudes Toward and Understanding of Science and Technology, various years.